

2786, A NOVEL HUMAN AMINOPEPTIDASE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

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This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/443,795, filed November 19, 1999, <sup>now US Patent 6,383,780,</sup> which is hereby incorporated in its entirety by reference herein.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention relates to a newly identified human aminopeptidase. The invention also relates to polynucleotides encoding the aminopeptidase. The invention further relates to methods using the aminopeptidase polypeptides and polynucleotides as a target for diagnosis and treatment in aminopeptidase-related disorders. The invention further relates to drug-screening methods using the aminopeptidase polypeptides and polynucleotides to identify agonists and antagonists for diagnosis and treatment. The invention further encompasses agonists and antagonists based on the aminopeptidase polypeptides and polynucleotides. The invention further relates to procedures for producing the aminopeptidase polypeptides and polynucleotides.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Proteases may function in carcinogenesis by inactivating or activating regulators of the cell cycle, differentiation, programmed cell death, or other processes affecting cancer development and/or progression. Consistent with the model involving protease activity and tumor progression, certain protease inhibitors have been shown to be effective inhibitors of carcinogenesis both *in vitro* and *in vivo*.